REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the final Office Action dated March 15, 2006. A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and A Petition For A Three-Month Extension Of Time are submitted with this Response. Claims 102-126, 154-155, 158-165 and 167-175 are pending in the application and are under examination. With this Response, claims 102-126, 154, 158-165, 167-169 and 171-175 have been amended; and claims 155 and 170 have been canceled without prejudice. No new matter has been introduced; thus, favorable reconsideration is requested. The Director is authorized to charge all fees due and owing, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-1818.

The Office Action rejects claim 117 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Accordingly, the Applicants have herein amended the claim 117 to clarify its meaning.

The Office Action also rejects claims 102-126, 154, 158-165, 167-169 and 171-175 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentably over Moon (U.S. Patent No. 5,037,456, hereafter "Moon") or Yu (U.S. Patent No. 5,037,456, hereafter "Yu") in view of Byerly (U.S. Patent No. 2,826,262, hereafter "Byerly"). The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As amended, independent claims 102, 154, 169 and 171 recite, among other elements, the elements below.

Independent claim 102 recites "[a]n electrode assembly configured to create a flow of air comprising:...a third electrode located at least partially downstream from the second electrode and having an ion emitter."

Independent claim 154 recites "[a]n air treatment device having an ion generator comprising:... a third electrode at least partially downstream of the second electrode assembly and having an ion emitter."

Independent claim 169 recites "[a] method of manufacturing an air treatment device ~~conditioning air~~ comprising:...configuring a third electrode in the housing at least partially downstream from the electrode and having an ion emitter."

Independent claim 171 recites "[a]n air treatment device~~conditioner comprising~~:... a third electrode at least partially downstream of the second electrode assembly and having an ion emitter."

Conversely, in Moon, the only downstream electrode disclosed is an accelerating electrode 3, which is used to collect dust particles (see, Moon, Fig. 1). Similarly, in Yu, the downstream electrodes are described as the "dust collection section," which includes three sets of equally spaced apart dust collection plates (see, Yu, col. 2, lines 23-25). Nothing in Moon or Yu describes "the accelerating electrode" or "the dust collection section" as including an ion emitter. Finally, nothing in Byerly discloses a downstream electrode, let alone a downstream electrode that includes an ion emitter. Thus, the cited references fail to disclose all the features recited in at least independent claims 102, 154, 169 and 171 (as amended). For the same reason, independent claims 102, 154, 169 and 171 (as well as their corresponding dependent claims) are patentably distinguished over the cited references.

Based on the foregoing, the Applicants submit that all of the claims submitted with this Response are in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action on the merits is kindly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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